



The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry serves as the collective voice of the business community and is committed to defining and advocating for issues of importance on behalf of our members.

The Advocacy Council, made up of a diverse representation of our membership, is the body that reviews and develops policy position statements on a broad array of issues. The issues are brought to our attention by the Board, various committees, the membership at large, or through our three-year strategic plan. As a service to our members, the advocacy department monitors the progress of the Pro-Business Agenda to keep members informed and encourage engagement.

We believe the priority areas outlined below, together with the broader Chamber services and programs, will foster a better business climate and work toward our mission of building Lancaster County into a model of prosperity for 21st Century America. Our ultimate goal is to create a vibrant environment in which businesses can thrive and, in turn, enhance the quality of life for the entire community. We encourage our members to become familiar with our agenda and be engaged in efforts to keep our business community strong.

TAX, BUDGET & FISCAL MATTERS

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- State Budget and County Budget impact on local community.
- Proposal to sell state liquor stores.
- Proposal to tax natural gas extraction.
- Proposal to explore the viability of a 2-year state budget.
- Challenges with the state unemployment compensation fund.
- Proposed policies that will help businesses grow and be competitive.
- Proposed policies that will encourage job creation.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support fair and responsible state pension reform.
- Support comprehensive tax reform.
- Support phase-out of the Capital Stock & Franchise Tax.
- Support efforts by the government to control spending and reduce business taxes.
- Support a reduction in the Corporate Net Income Tax.
- Support the adoption of a single sales factor.
- Support the elimination of future Net Operating Loss caps.
- Oppose combined reporting (“Delaware Loophole”).
- Oppose state sales tax rate increases.
- Oppose eliminating the vendor discount.
- Support tax incentives that would lower building and construction costs to allow farmers be more competitive.

LABOR RELATIONS

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Project Labor Agreements.
- Collective bargaining rules.
- Workers’ Compensation regulations.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support eliminating and/or reforming the state and federal prevailing wage law.
- Oppose the Card Check legislation.
- Oppose legislation mandating union membership by any employee.
- Oppose government efforts to influence the private sector’s ability to freely determine compensation and benefits for employees.
- Support tort reform.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Secure additional state and local partner organizations to build the strength of the Regional Chamber Alliance – which includes York, Harrisburg, Reading, Lehigh Valley (representing Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton), Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre.
- Draft comprehensive legislation that would provide municipalities with the tools they need to become sustainable and successful. The legislation would cover: (1) Pensions; (2) Binding Arbitration; (3) Economic Development; and (4) Revenues.
- Secure legislative champions in the Administration and General Assembly.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support, and be the local leader, around the connection between a prosperous Lancaster City and a prosperous Lancaster County.
- Serve on Mayor Rick Gray's Task Force on Municipal Finance.
- Remain actively engaged in the Regional Chamber Alliance's development of policy positions and legislative strategies.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Details of state and federal transportation funding bills.
- Identify weaknesses in the transportation planning process.
- Mandated changes to animal housing systems.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support Public-Private Partnerships (P3s).
- Support streamlining the transportation planning process.
- Support investments in modes of transportation that uses alternative energy sources.
- Support indexing funding reforms to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Support updating current law that will allow for the safe, legal and practical transportation of farm equipment on public roads.

HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Explore proposed alternatives to healthcare reform law.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support 1099 reporting repeal.
- Encourage employers to retain health insurance benefits through incentives, not penalties.
- Encourage more Americans to buy health insurance through incentives, not penalties.
- Support reforming the medical malpractice liability insurance system.
- Support investing in health information technology, wellness programs, prevention, disease management and coordination of care.
- Support competition and choice in healthcare plans.
- Support repeal of the recent healthcare reform law.
- Support legislation limiting the civil liability of farmers involved in agri-tourism activities.



EDUCATION

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Workplace training programs that prepare students and workers to meet the challenges of today and future job markets.
- Dropout prevention policies.
- School voucher proposal.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support reform to state pension system.
- Support a quality education supported by predictable, consistent and adequate resources generated through consistent tax rates throughout the County.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Pending Issues to Evaluate:

- Develop and support a business “Pick 5 campaign” to improve water quality and clean the Chesapeake Bay.
- Federal and state Chesapeake Bay mandates.
- Banning of antibiotic usage in animal feeds.

Current Championed Policies:

- Support the development of domestically produced energy.
- Support maximizing energy diversity and power sources that are competitive, environmentally responsible, reliable and affordable.
- Support efforts that increase the efficient use of energy.
- Support a reliable energy delivery infrastructure that exists throughout the County and region.
- Support stable, predictable and competitive energy costs for consumers.

For more information on our 2011 advocacy priority areas, visit lancasterchamber.com or contact David Greineder, advocacy director, at 717.397.3531 or dgreineder@lancasterchamber.com